

COALITION OF CONNECTICUT SPORTSMEN

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Testimony presented to the PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

IN SUPPORT of Proposed S.B. No. 554 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PISTOL PERMIT APPEALS PROCESS.

by Robert T. Crook, Director

02/10/11

The Pistol Permit Appeals process has been in chaos for several years and detrimental to the interests of CT citizens. Essentially, there have been delays of hearings before the Board for 18 months or more both on permit denials by local chiefs or CSP and revocations.

Reportedly, often permits are being revoked, not for a conviction, but merely for an arrest, or even where there is no arrest at all, and for no stated reason. For the permit holder to have to wait 18 months or more to have their appeal heard and decided, places a chilling effect upon the whole permitting process. There are many horror stories concerning appeals administration.

Attorney CRAIG C. FISHBEIN has submitted changes to the committee, but cannot make the hearing. The Coalition supports his statute changes. Among them: **All appeals filed under this section shall be duly heard no more than ninety days following the filing of the appeal. Failure to be heard within this ninety day period shall be cause for the board to grant the relief sought, forthwith and without further hearing.**

Other changes need to be made to the permitting statute particularly concerning reasons for denial and revocation, but the immediate concern is the inadequate appeals process.

We urge support.